

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /077 W
-----026103 152214Z /73

R 111405Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7540
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0933

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: GATSHA BUTHELEZI DEFENDS HIS LEADERSHIP BEFORE CROWD IN
SOWETO

1. KWA-ZULU CHIEF MINISTER GATSHA BUTHELEZI, MAKING A SPIRITED
DEFENSE OF HIS BLACK LEADERSHIP ROLE, ATTACKED THOSE WHO "BEAT
THE DRUMS OF DIVISION" IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY BEFORE 15,000
CHEERING SUPPORTERS IN SOWETO YESTERDAY (APRIL 9). BUTHELEZI'S
SPEECH WAS HIS FIRST MAJOR ADDRESS SINCE THE INCIDENT AT THE
FUNERAL OF ROBERT SOBUKWE IN GRAAF-REINET LAST MONTH WHEN
HE WAS UNCEREMONIOUSLY ASKED TO LEAVE AND NEARLY ASSAULTED.

2. THE MAJOR GIST OF BUTHELEZI'S SPEECH WAS AN ATTACK ON THOSE
WHO HAD "GIVEN CREDIBILITY TO A BUNCH OF POLITICAL THUGS WHO
HAD ABUSED INSTEAD OF HONORED THE MEMORY OF SOBUKWE"..SPECIFI-
CALLY, BUTHELEZI RAILED AGAINST SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, DESMOND TUTU, THE BLACK PEOPLE'S
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CONVENTION, THE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, AND "LIBERAL
WHITE JOURNALISTS" SUCH AS PATRICK LAWRENCE OF THE RAND DAILY
MAIL FOR VARIOUSLY PLANNING THE ATTACK AND/OR JUSTIFYING IT
IN THE PRESS.

3. THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION GIVEN BUTHELEZI IN AN VENUE
SOMETIMES REGARDED AS HOSTILE TERRITORY (SOWETO), IS CERTAINLY

INDICATIVE THAT THE MAN (BUTHELEZI) HAS STRONG SUPPORT AND
THAT ZULUS HERE, AS WELL AS IN NATAL, REJECTED THE "SORRILOUS"
ATTACK ON BUTHELEZI AT THE SOBUKWE FUNERAL. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS
REPORTING, THE GRAAF-REINET INCIDENT MAY HAVE CONSOLIDATED
THAT SUPPORT HE HAS RATHER THAN HAVE HURT HIM.
JOHNSON

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, SPEECHES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JOHANN00933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780163-0176
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780468/aaaacfkf.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab8e61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3000267
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATSHA BUTHELEZI DEFENDS HIS LEADERSHIP BEFORE CROWD IN SOWETO
TAGS: PINT, SF, (BUTHELEZI, GATSHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab8e61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014